The Trumpet Mouthpiece

Mouthpiece Anatomy

• 5 basic components
  o Rim – inner diameter, width, contour, and edge (bite)
  o Cup – depth and shape; air volume
  o Throat and bore – shape of opening
  o Backbore – rate and shape of taper
  o Shank – length in relation to instrument

• Each of these factors significantly influences how a mouthpiece will perform and the timbre it will produce

• Effects altering each component
  o Wider/larger rim diameter = larger sound, but harder to control
  o Larger cup = larger sound, darker sound
    ▪ Better for low register/shallow for high register
  o Large Throat/bore = darker sound, easier response
    ▪ Higher size (27, 25, 24) = smaller diameter
  o Larger Backbore = expands at steeper rate during first third, and gradually thereafter. Larger = bigger sound

• Component mouthpieces – screw rim

• Heavy-Wall Mouthpieces

• Different Metals

• Standard cup depths:
  o A = very deep
  o B = medium
  o C = medium shallow (standard)
  o D = shallow
  o E = extremely shallow